

per of many people at this time. It may be added, that in this country, vigour and resolution in its rulers are a covering for many deficiencies. No nation that enters into a war, is less apt to look back into the proceedings that brought them into it than the English. They go forward too earnestly for much retrospection, and are chiefly intent on prosecuting it with spirit. Such a disposition, inclines them to bear with alacrity the distresses that necessarily follow, and to think little of them, provided they are counterbalanced with events that tend to gratify their natural passion for glory.

Their pride and high-mindedness had been severely checked by the late transactions in America. They saw a people, who, though joined by the strictest bonds of fraternal union, were still considered by them in a secondary light, pretending to a right of equality in every thing they looked upon as most valuable and important. This pretension had been asserted with a vigour and success that surprised and offended them: they felt themselves, in consequence, much less disposed to examine the justice of their demands, than to make them sensible that Englishmen were still their superiors.

It had been apprehended, that a speedy diminution of the trade with America would have been the immediate consequence of hostilities; but it happened otherwise. The importations from that country, for the payment of their debts, were remarkably abundant this year, and furnished their well-wishers with well-grounded reasons to represent them as a people whose probity rendered them the more highly deserving of our respect, as notwithstanding they were at the eve of a war with the most dangerous enemy they could have to encounter, still they were too honest, and too generous, to avail themselves of such a pretence to defer the settlement of their accounts with that very enemy.

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